Methodist Peace Courier

BOARD OF WORLD PEACE
740 RUSH STREET, CHICAGO 11, ILLINOIS

Subscription of ten issues—$1.00

Editorial Board:
CHARLES F. BOSS (N.Y.)
DANIEL E. TAYLOR
CARL D. SOULE
HERMAN WILL, JR.

VOL. III, No. 9 | Published monthly September through June | MARCH, 1958

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WORLD TRADE AND WORLD PEACE

In Congress in 1958 the big legislative fight will be over trade and tariffs. President Eisenhower wants the reciprocal trade agreements extended for five years. For three successive years he has asked for U.S. entrance into the Organization for Trade Cooperation. The churches of the nation strongly endorse these objectives!

On February 17 the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives began hearings on the renewal of the Trade Agreements Act and thus initiated what will undoubtedly be a struggle of several months duration. During these months education and action in local churches on this issue is important , for the testimony of church leaders in Washington requires the support of voting Christian citizens.

Nineteenth Century Protectionism

In colonial days the states could and did place taxes or tariffs upon goods coming from other states. New York, for example, taxed firewood coming from Connecticut and vegetables from New Jersey. The wood choppers and the truck farmers of the Empire state needed protection! Imagine how much economic tension and confusion such practices would entail today! Illinois would tax corn from Iowa to protect corn growers in Illinois. Massachusetts would tax cotton goods from the Carolinas to protect cotton mills in Lawrence. Texas would tax automobiles from Michigan to encourage cars "made in Texas by Texans."

The federal union, of course, abolished this pattern of colonial economic rivalry. Many economists believed that one of the secrets of American prosperity is the free market existing in the 48 states. This freedom of exchange of goods has sometimes meant hardship to certain sections of the nation! Coal miners in West Virginia have suffered from the increasing consumption of gas and fuel oil from Texas. Mill workers in New Hampshire have been thrown out of work by competition from cotton mills in South Carolina. But the benefits of the U.S. free market have greatly outweighed its ills.

Between 1800 and 1900 there was a gradual increase in tariffs placed upon goods coming into the United States. On the whole the Republican North wanted high tariffs to protect manufacturing interests from the competition of goods from industrialized Europe, while the Democratic South wanted low tariffs to enable farmers to sell their cotton, corn, tobacco, and wheat to other nations and in turn buy their products.

The Disastrous Twenties

The high tariffs of the nineteenth century had some justification, for the U.S. was a debtor nation and needed a surplus of exports over imports to pay its obligations abroad. But the First World War caused the United States to be a creditor nation and therefore to need more imports than exports.

The nations of Europe sent us much gold. We buried it at Fort Knox. They wanted to sell us manufactured goods to pay their debts, but we told them we did not need their products and raised our tariffs higher. On the one hand we expected them to pay their debts and on the other hand prevented them from paying by establishing high tariff walls! The climax of this trend was reached in 1930 when Congress passed the Smoot-Hawley Act, raising tariffs to their highest point in U.S. history.

The Coming of Trade Agreements

It was soon obvious that high tariffs did not help employment. When we ceased to buy foreign products, other nations raised their tariff walls and ceased to buy U.S. products. Therefore, while a thousand men in Elgin, Illinois, may have had employment because of high tariff on Swiss watches, another thousand in Fort Madison, Iowa, lost their jobs because Switzerland raised its tariffs on American fountain pens.

In 1934 President Roosevelt and Secretary Cordell Hull inaugurated a series of trade agreements, by which we agreed to reduce tariffs on certain items which we wished to export if other nations would reduce tariffs on certain items which they wished to export. These agreements have been renewed repeatedly by Congress, usually for a three-year period.

When the Republican party came to power in 1952 it did not reject these trade agreements. A commission of representative Americans headed by Clarence Randall of the Inland Steel Corpora-

tion, recommended continuation of the pattern. However, in the House and Senate there was definite opposition to the extension of these agreements and when they were renewed in 1955 for three years, the victory was by a small margin. The present recession in the United States will strengthen the hand of protectionists who will argue like their predecessors in 1930 that American jobs must be protected by high tariff walls.

The United Nations and OTC

From the beginning of its legal existence in 1945 the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations has been interested in the promotion of world trade. During the last ten years many nations of the world have worked out agreements by which tariffs have been reduced on 50,000 items. The General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) has been the skeleton framework under which consultations have been held.

Something more solid and permanent is needed. GATT needs an address, an office, a small number of international civil servants who will facilitate agreements. Therefore, the Organization for Trade Cooperation (OTC) has been proposed. In 1956 and 1957 the President asked the Senate to ratify the treaty authorizing U.S. participation, but the measure did not even come out of committee!

Resistance to Trade Agreements

Those who want trade agreements modified or tariffs raised always have one trait in common, a special interest in a sector of the economy. Mill owners and workers in South Carolina want higher tariffs against cloth from Japan (even though Japanese imports amount to only one or two percent of our gross consumption). Copper mine owners and workers in Montana want higher tariffs against copper from Bolivia. Groundfish fishermen in Boston want higher tariffs against groundfish fillets from Iceland and tuna fishermen in San Francisco want higher tariffs against tuna meat from Japan. Plywood plants in soft wood sections view coldly imported plyboards. No one wishes to turn a cold shoulder to such cases of economic hardship. Yet there is a better way of handling them than by automatically raising tariffs any time a domestic industry believes it is being harmed.

For one thing, competition is valuable internationally as well as within the United States and sections of our economy must learn how to produce competitively. The consumer deserves to enjoy cheap tuna from Japan or cheap bicycles from Britain and not always to subsidize an inefficient or outmoded U.S. industry.

Since a program of trade agreements is for the national benefit, the national government needs to give attention to towns and areas harshly affected by imports. Senator Kennedy recently introduced a bill in Congress (S.2907) providing that in such genuine hardship cases, the federal government will help workers to retire early, or retrain for new work, or move to other sections of the nation where work is more abundant.

Moreover, there is no proposal to abolish all tariffs at one fell swoop! The reciprocal trade agreements legislation enables the President to make modest reductions, so that native industries will rarely be seriously jeopardized.

The Large View

The conflict is basically between those who take a narrow view and those who take a large view, between those who think of today and those who think of days to come. This is where the Church can and does speak with conviction. The Church is concerned about the world and the welfare of the human race. The Church believes neither in political isolationism nor economic isolationism. It knows the spiritual value of economic intercourse. It knows that world peace must be rooted in brotherhood demonstrated in the area of trade and tariffs.

-C.D.S.

AFFAIRS AFAR

WASHINGTON - The State Department recently reported that over the 5-year period 1952-56, 6,108 scientists participated in the Department's international educational exchange program. One out of every five persons exchanged during that period was a scientist.

More than 1,200 American scientists went abroad to lecture, study, or conduct advanced research. The range of scientific pursuits which relate to peaceful uses of atomic energy has grown tremendously in the last few years. During 1956, 183 exchanges under the Department's program were related to such endeavors.

UNITED NATIONS - The U.S. has made a special $12,000,000 contribution to meet the 1957 deficitof the U.N. Emergency Force in the Middle East. Declared Deputy U.S. Representative to the U.N., James J. Wadsworth, in presenting the check said: "The U.N. Emergency Force is serving the cause of world peace and deserves the support of all members of the United Nations ..... Last year not one casualty was incurred along the borders where the force is deployed, where previously hundred of lives had been lost each year. ..... We owe a great deal to this force ..... of approximately 5,500 men from nine of the smaller countries of the world who are devotedly serving us all in this constructive and effective action for peace."

The Board of Christian Social Relations of the Detroit Conference has issued a "Package Program on Trade and Tariff" for use in local churches.

All details are indicated. It might advantageously be used at a meeting of Methodist Men, of the Woman's Society, or at a church night.

Booklets are indicated for the use of panel members. Quotations from church bodies are listed. For copies, write to Board of Christian Social Relations, 1205 Kales Building, Detroit 26, Michigan.

PEACE ACTION: SHORT-LIVED OR FAR-SIGHTED?

Sensible action for peace doesn't happen. It avoids certain pitfalls. It espouses certain practices. Results are vastly different.

Because we eagerly long for peace, we assume we are peace-minded. But everyone yearns for peace; even those who only aim to save their skins. What do we more than they? Mere desire for peace has no distinctive Christian quality about it.

Another sentiment, right but inadequate, is an attitude of good will. A loving spirit will solve anything, we say. This is so primary in Christian work that we take it for the whole truth. The fact is that spirit must always find form and being. Love had better find a way; otherwise it is stifled.

Some fall back from peace due to its very vastness and vagueness. Failing to come to grips with it anywhere, they utter platitudes and form broad resolutions that are full of moralisms. To restate safe generalities that have been established positions for years does little to encourage those at grips with the hard problems of the day. Lacking at points in its ethical connotations though it seems to be, one big reason for advocating Ernest Lefever's new paper-bound, "Ethics and United States Policy" as required reading for church commissions, is to reveal the magnitude of current issues.

An opposite danger is to view peace as so complex and difficult as to be a topic for experts only. It is true that we must leave details to the diplomat and the political scientist. But I concur thoroughly with Dorothy Fosdick when she states that the broad issues confronting mankind are evident to any careful reader and the larger choices are never "classified." Peace is a human problem; it involves all of us and it is ours to solve.

A further temptation is to "to leave it to Washington." Let Congress settle it. But the final test of national policy is whether the people will support it. Moreover, the talk on Capitol Hill often sounds strangely like the conversation on your street and mine.

While these pitfalls lead mainly to inactivity, true peace work suffers just as much from well-meaning zealots and fanatics. Usually they offer a simple solution and a one-shot method. Churchmen sometimes fall prey to the same temptation instead of forging a balanced, full-orbed peace approach. Christian wisdom and concern ought to teach us that there are many sides to be known; many steps to be taken; and many tasks to do. Since we want a real solution, we know it will take both time and planning. No single panacea will suffice.

Legitimate peace leaders study carefully, discuss thoroughly, plan wisely and act concertedly. Action will be true fruition; it will not run ahead of clear thinking.

What are some of the main issues we must appraise?

Can we obtain mature understanding and support of the United Nations in every Methodist household? Can the UN maintain growth and flexibility to meet emerging needs?

What about the positive uses of atomic and heavy hydrogen energy sources? Can we assess both the positive and negative values of the fission and fusion processes?

How shall we utilize military development as a valid deterrent without ruining our economy or accelerating war tension and unrest? How shall we evaluate unparalleled military achievement by all Great Powers at the very time when military solutions are largely irrelevant to any of the great human interests?

What about the major disarmament objectives? What of our attempt to secure real limitation of nuclear and missiles races; propaganda and position advantage; and strategic security---all in one package? Are they mutually compatible?

What about the "economics" of peace making? How shall we use earth's resources and our productive capacity for both national interest and the well-being of mankind?

How shall we find rebirth of the nation's soul? Are confidence and fortitude, qualities for which Christian A. Herter, Under Secretary of State, pleads in a recent article to the church press, enough? How is a country amenable to God's will?

Upon these and similar issues must churchmen dwell until peace is within our destiny.

-D.E.T.

We all know Swiss watches are imported to America. How many know that our exports to Switzerland in 1956 were valued at $215,000,000 as against seven million twenty years ago. Japan has been the best overseas customer for exported agricultural products the past five years with a commodity value of over two billion dollars; the United Kingdom ranks next, less than a quarter billion behind for the same period.

Geneva, Switzerland - The protection of workers against dangerous radiation has led to revision of the Model Code following a three weeks discussion by experts at the headquarters of the International Labor Organization. Operations involved include mining hazards, industrial protection, radiography and fluoroscopy, luminous compounds, and waste disposal.

The distinctive response of industrialist Cyrus S. Eaton of Cleveland to the proposal of Dr. Rabinowitch for an international conference of scientists is enclosed with this issue of the COURIER.

Carl D. Soule and Daniel Taylor of the staff will participate in a series of one-day conferences on world trade and economic aid in a dozen key cities during April.

PEACEMAKING PERSONS

Senator Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota, chairman, has invited representatives of religious groups to express their views before the special Senate subcommittee on disarmament meeting in March, in order "to give the Senate as much information as possible on the problems and possibilities of reaching some international agreement designed to slow down or halt the arms race and relax international tensions."

Representations and testimony by church groups and leaders concerning economic aid may also be made before the appropriate agency.

Architect-painter Albert S. Bigelow and fellow architect William Huntington are two Quakers who, with the assistance of two other crewmen, will sail the ketch "Golden Rule" into the Marshall Islands bomb area at Eniwetok in nonviolent protest against the major nuclear tests scheduled there for early April by our government.

Announcing a special series of evening services, Dr. Albert P. Shirkey, pastor of Mount Vernon Place Methodist Church, Washington, D.C., said "We call upon churches throughout the world to hold similar services so that the people may unite in a great peace offensive." He also read messages from Senator Lyndon Johnson of Texas, majority leader, and Senator William Knowland of California, minority leader.

A new song for children, "One World: A Song for the Children of the United Nations," has recently been published by Mrs. William F. Pool, 8401 - 41st N.W., Seattle 16, Wash. Available at 50¢ a copy (3 copies for $1) Mrs. Pool states that she will supply a free copy to leaders for children groups who write her indicating their status.

After long trying for a pen pal in Russia, Albert Price of Philadelphia is now regularly corresponding with a philosophy student in Moscow named Volodoya. Price's support of the Pen Pal idea was featured recently in the Philadelphia Daily News.

Philip Isely of Lakewood, Colorado, is heading the USA Committee on Elections which is seeking election of delegates to the People's World Constitutional Convention. Professor Ralph Templin, Ohio sociologist and Methodist leader, is active on the committee which was formed in Chicago last November.

Some kind of an accolade for the top "peace" article of the month ought to go to Walter Millis for "Arms Race: Count-Down for Disaster" in the February 15 issue of "The Nation."

Tokyo, Japan - Mass production of the new artificial food from chlorela algae, "Chlorela", rich in proteins and cheaper than rice, is under way. It is eaten as a spread on bread or rice.

LITERATURE ON TARIFF AND TRADE

Free

(For single copies of free material, write to the Board of World Peace. For larger quantities, write to the address indicated after each item.)

Expanded Trade and World Peace, an address by Henry Ford II, 15 pages. Director of Public Relations, Ford Motor Co., 3000 Schaefer Road, Dearborn, Michigan.

1958: Year of Crisis in World Trade, an address by George L. Bell, President of the Committee for a National Trade Policy, well illustrated, 12 pages. Committee for National Trade Policy, 1025 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C.

What About Cotton Textiles and Imports? - a description of the effect upon American industry of the import of textiles, 18 pages. Committee for National Trade Policy, 1025 Connecticut Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C.

Sale Material

(For the following items, either singly or in quantity, write to the Board of World Peace, 740 Rush Street, Chicago 11, Illinois)

U.S. Foreign Trade Policy, 1776 to 1955, an excellent and attractive historical survey of U.S. tariff policy, 15 pages, League of Women Voters, 10¢.

"International Trade and Payments," in Issues Before 12th General Assembly, pages 114 to 116, concise description of the status of GATT and OTC in the United Nations, 25¢.

The Nations Go Shopping, a general treatment of trade with special reference to trade with Japan 15 pages, Woman's Division, 15¢.

Together We Are Strong, a government publication with illuminating tables concerning exports and imports, 40 pages, 20¢.

Trade and Tariff Kit, a selection of basic aids and pamphlets, $1.00.

"A New Kind of Building," new interboard filmstrip and record for the local church Commission on Christian Social Relations, will be available at $6.00 for the film and record through a recent decision, instead of the eight dollar price tentatively announced. It is available through any of the General Boards dealing with social action, including our Board of World Peace.

Bruges, Belgium - "National defense in the traditional sense no longer exists. It is technically obsolete." Dr. Henri Brugmnas, Rector College of Europe.